

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-06 PM-03 L-01 NSC-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 NIC-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 OMB-01 IGA-01 AID-05

(ISO) W

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R 261251Z OCT 74

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 44

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LIMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1966

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GE, 03

SUBJECT: GDR DEFENSE MINISTER VISITS PERU

REF: USBER 1476

1. OFFICIAL VISIT TO PERU OF HIGH-LEVEL GDR MILITARY DELEGATION LED BY DEFENSE MINISTER HEINZ HOFFMANN RECEIVED PROMINENT FIRSTPAGE COVERAGE THIS WEEK IN EAST GERMAN PRESS. HOFFMANN REPORTEDLY VISITING PERU ON INVITATION EXTENDED BY GENERAL ARTURO CAVERO CALIXTO, CHIEF OF STAFF OF PERUVIAN ARMED FORCES, WHO PAID SIMILAR VISIT TO GDR IN JULY 1973. ACCORDING TO ACCOUNTS IN NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, EAST GERMAN DELEGATION ARRIVED IN LIMA OCTOBER 21 AFTER MAKING BRIEF STOPOVER IN CUBA WHERE THEY WERE WELCOMED BY RAUL CASTRO. DURING CALL OCTOBER 23, HOFFMANN COVEYED TO PERUVIAN
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PRESIDENT ALVAREDO MESSAGE SIGNED BY HONECKER, STOPH

AND SINDERMANN. ORATORY IN CONNECTION WITH VISIT HAS STRESSED DESIRE OF BOTH SIDES TO STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND PRESENT GOOD RELATIONS.

2. IN CONTEXT DEVELOPING INNER-GERMAN RELATIONS, INTERESTING SIDELIGHT ON HOFFMANN'S TRIP IS HIS TRANSIT OF FRANKFURT/MAIN, THUS BECOMING FIRST GDR DEFENSE MINISTER TO SET FOOT IN FRG. DURING FRANKFURT LAYOVER OCTOBER 19, WEST BERLIN PRESS NOTED THAT ALTHOUGHT FRG POINTEDLY IGNORED HIS PRESENCE, AIRPORT AUTHORITIES ACCORDED HIM VIP TREATMENT AND WAS MET BY KOHL, GDR PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE IN BONN.

3. COMMENT: WHILE HOFFMAN VISIT UNDOUBTEDLY RECIPROCATES THAT OF GENERAL CALIXTO IN 1973, TRIP OF PROMINENT MEMBER SED CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO LATIN AMERICAN IS USEFUL FLAG-WAVING EXERCISE AND REFLECTS HEIGHTENED INTEREST OF GDR IN IMPROVING ITS IMAGE AND IN EXPANDING ITS INFLUENCE GENERALLY IN PART OF WORK WHERE IT HAS HAD VERY LIMITED CONTACTS IN PAST. FOLLOWING OVERTHROW OF ALLENDE REGIME IN CHILE, THESE EFFORTS SEEM TO BE DIRECTED PRIMARILY AT MORE "PROGRESSIVE-LATIN STATES. OVER PAST YEAR, AND PARTICULARLY DURING VISIT THIS SPRING OF PERUVIAN COMMUNIST PARTY CHIEF PRADO, GDR PRESS HAS BEEN DEVOTING INCREASING SPACE TO PERU, WHICH IS DESCRIBED OFFICIALLY AS STATE THAT HAS REACHED NEW STAGE OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. IN SAME PERIOD, THERE HAS ALSO BEEN STEADY FLOW OF OFFICIAL VISITORS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. (AS REPORTED REFTEL, RECENT VISIT OF PERUVIAN MINISTER OF FISHERIES, GENERAL VANINI, RESULTED IN SIGNING OF AGREEMENT FOR JOINT COOPERATION IN FISHERY MATTERS.)

4. HOFFMANN MISSION ALSO POINTS UP GDR FOREIGN RELATIONS TACTIC OF USING MILITARY TO PERFORM ESSENTIALLY DIPLOMATIC TASK. IN PAST, GDR HAS EMPLOYED THIS TACTIC IN DEALING WITH STATES WHOSE GOVERNMENTS DOMINATED BY MILITARY JUNTA HAVING AN IDEOLOGICALLY ACCEPTABLE COLORATION. ALTHOUGHT GDR PRESS HAS PROVIDED NO HINT OF ANY SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS HOFFMANN MAY BE PURSUING WITH GOP, CONFIDENTIAL

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MISSION HAS HEARD UNSUBSTANTIATED RUMOR THAT IN CONNECTION WITH RECENT PERUVIAN PURCHASE OF TANKS FROM USSR, TRAINING OF CREWS AND POSSIBLY MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT AS WELL, MAY HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED BY SOVIETS TO EAST GERMAN VOLKSARMEE FOR COSMETIC REASONS.

5. IF THERE ANY BASIS OF TRUTH IN RUMOR, GDR DELEGATION MAY BE IN PERU TO WORK OUT MODALITIES OF THIS ARRANGEMENT.

WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ADDITIONAL INFO EMBASSY LIMA MAY
BE ABLE TO DEVELOP.KLEIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS, MILITARY VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974USBERL01966
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740315-0134
From: USBERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741012/aaaaajzp.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: USBER 1476
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <12 MAR 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GDR DEFENSE MINISTER VISITS PERU
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, GC, PE, GE, (HOFFMANN, HEINZ)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005